

The Next Generation

How do we nurture the next generation of academics? What is the current environment for postgraduate research students (PGRs)?

Right now UK higher education is suffering from

- Very excessive workloads
- A decade and counting of real-term pay cuts (down more than 25% since 2009)
- Gender, race and disability pay gaps
- 35% (average) cuts to pensions – cuts that were completely unnecessary
- Overuse of outsourcing and insecure contracts.

These conditions must change if we want to attract and retain the best staff, and if we want students to consider a career in UK higher education.

In 2022 UCU secured a massive inflation uplift in PGR stipends from the UK research councils. However, there's much more to do for PGRs to have decent conditions while they study and train. UCU campaigns for PGRs to be treated as staff so they will have the security of employment rights.



How Can I Help?

- **Join UCU:** www.ucu.org.uk/join and join the strike: 21, 22, 23, 27 and 28 February and 1, 2, 16, 17 (weekend 18, 19), 20, 21, 22 March 2023
- Ask the Vice-Chancellor to reverse the USS cuts and support a pay rise that addresses equality, workload, job security and the cost of living crisis (vice-chancellor@open.ac.uk)
- Sign up as a supporter at <https://www.ucu.org.uk/supportthestrikes>
- Donate to the UCU Fighting Fund <https://www.ucu.org.uk/fightingfund>
- Post support on social media using #ucuRISING
- If you're a PGR get involved in the 'PGRs As Staff' campaign <https://www.ucu.org.uk/PGRs-as-staff>.

